




From Youth to Elders – Involving Native Communities in Regional Planning

Joan Kluwe, URS Corporation
Jon Isaacs, URS Corporation
Heather Coulehan, Akeela, Inc.

US EPA Community Involvement Conference and Training
Milwaukee, WI June 29, 2006

Agenda

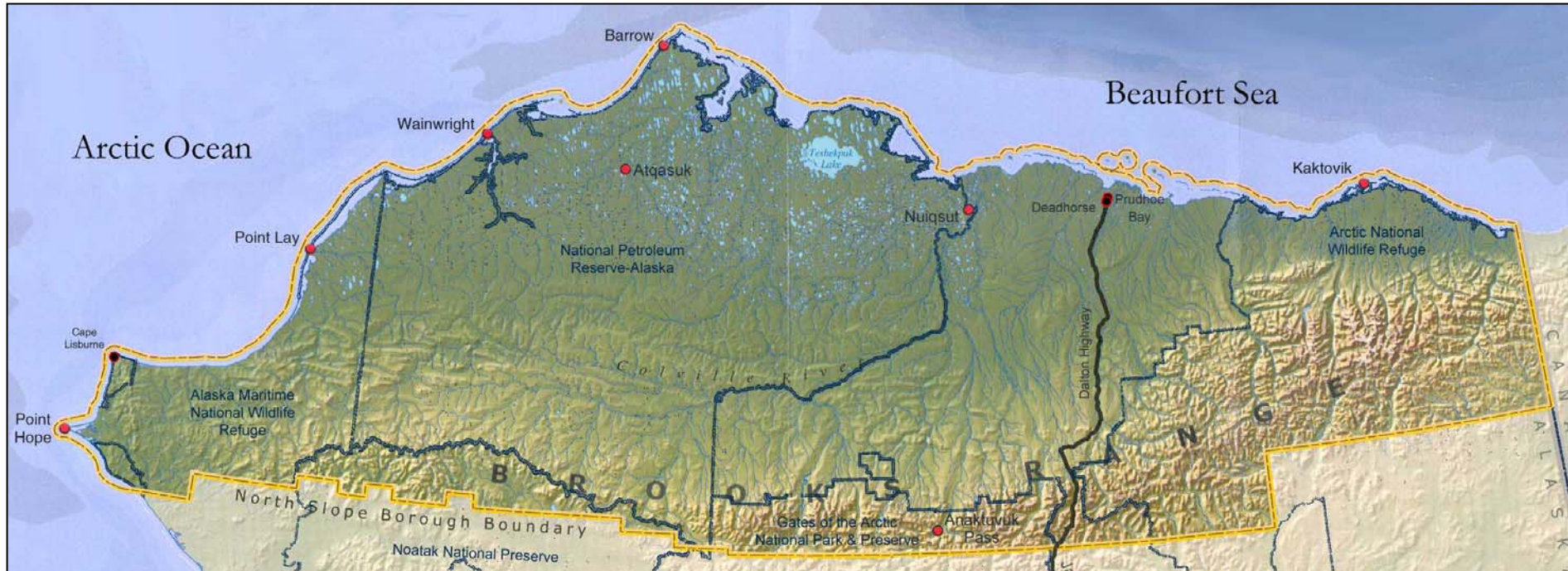
- 
- Overview
 - Introductions ☼
 - Introduction to North Slope Borough
 - Public Participation Example ☼
 - Overview of Comprehensive Plan
 - Planning and Public Participation Processes ☼
 - Examples from the Comprehensive Plan
 - Public Participation Challenges & Successes ☼
 - Resources for Planning and Public Participation

Introductions

- Micro-lab: questions and discussion
 - Questions to answer:
 - What is the most exciting, energizing, or challenging public participation project that you are working on?
 - Tell a little about the place where your project occurs.
 - Time: 10 minutes



North Slope Borough Introduction



North Slope Borough Introduction

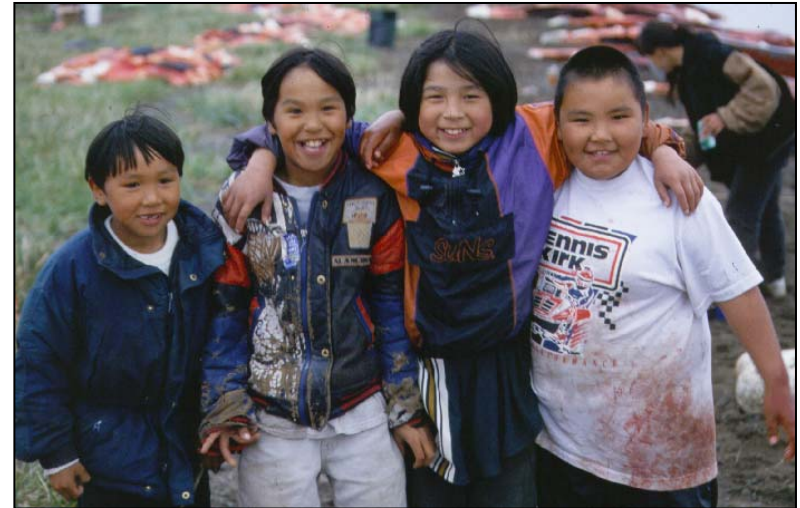
■ Key Social Factors

- ❑ Predominantly Inupiat population
- ❑ Young population that is growing
- ❑ Decreasing budgets and challenging economic environment
- ❑ Prevalent social stresses: drugs, alcohol, suicide
- ❑ Strong cultural traditions and subsistence economy



Public Participation Example

- North Slope Borough Youth Involvement Project
 - Objective: Provide background context for planning and public participation project
 - Time: 10 minutes



Comprehensive Plan Overview

- Regional plan with long-term outlook that guides Borough decisions on future growth and land use
- Identifies planning issues
- Sets goals and identifies implementation plan
- Required by Alaska state law and local ordinance



Comprehensive Plan Overview

■ Plan Contents

- ❑ Forward
- ❑ Comprehensive Plan and Executive Summary
 - Issues, goals, objectives
 - Basis for policy
 - Implementation guide
- ❑ Village Profiles
- ❑ Background Report
- ❑ Maps



Comprehensive Plan Overview

Public Services, Facilities, and Government

Issue	Goal	Objective/ Policy	Responsible Parties
Declining resource development revenue has impacted the ability of the Borough to provide public facilities and services used by residents (2004B)	Build partnerships to transfer services and facilities to the appropriate entities	Identify the role of the Borough in providing services and logical partners to assist in providing services	NSB Mayor's Office Admin. and Finance Departments, with city and tribal governments
	Continue to implement operational efficiencies and cost saving measures, restructure services and salary rates (2003)	Prioritize funding for Borough services and facilities	
	Limit the initiation of new services; ensure revenue for services can be sustained over time or make tradeoffs of existing services	Privatize Borough services when savings can be obtained and the quality of service is not diminished (2003)	

Planning & Public Participation Processes

- Brainstorming process options within project context
 - What processes have you used to involve youth in planning processes?
 - What processes have you used to involve elders in planning processes?
 - What processes have you used to involve the general public in planning processes?
 - What special populations should be considered in planning public participation/public involvement processes?
 - What key stakeholders are crucial for plan approval?
 - What partnerships are important in planning/public involvement processes?
 - Group report
 - Time: 7 minutes

Examples from the Plan

Participation and Input

- North Slope Borough Departments
- Village & Regional Workshops
- Two workshops with representatives from state and federal governments, industry, and conservation groups
- Two rounds of village meetings
- Newsletter and
Speaking on the Issues
- Youth Involvement Project
- NSB Website



Examples from the Plan Partnerships for Implementation

■ Geography, Government, and Citizenship Lesson

Issue	Goal	Objective/ Policy	Responsible Parties
<p>There are high rates of poverty in our community (2004N).</p> <p>Adult education and employment programs are needed in our community (2004N).</p>	Decrease the poverty rates in our community.	Develop employment training programs to help residents become more employable.	<p>NSB Mayor's Office, Health and Social Services Department, city and tribal councils, regional and village Native corporations, Ilisagvik College, North Slope Borough School District, and resource development industry</p>
	Develop adult education opportunities for residents.	Decrease drug and alcohol use to help residents become more employable.	
		Create more locally owned businesses.	
	Create employment opportunities for residents.	Establish local employment goals for outside companies to hire local employees.	
		Improve efficiency in social service outreach.	

Partnerships for Implementation

- How do the public participation elements in the North Slope Borough Comprehensive Plan compare with the ideas identified in the rotation stations?

- Time: 2 minutes



Public Participation Challenges & Successes

- Brainstorming, concentric circles to share challenges and successes; group discussion
 - Alternate with partners to share a success/challenge, as prompted
 - Debrief
 - Time: 10 minutes



Successes and Challenges from NSB

- Students identified issues not identified by adults: drugs, alcohol, suicide
- Extremely sensitive, difficult process
- Identified cultural strengths to overcome social challenges, including looking to elders for advice
- Process provided foundation for new social initiative: *Healthy Communities*
- The geographic scope of the project limited hands-on participation from planners in youth project as well as processes targeting elder involvement

Successes and Challenges Debrief

- How do the successes and challenges in the North Slope Borough compare to your own successes and challenges shared in the concentric circles process?
- Do you have suggestions for other techniques that could be used in Native communities?

Results of Youth Involvement



- We decided the solution needs to come from inside of our community
- We are a strong community, when people stick together we know that we can pull through
- Our ideas:
 - More activities
 - When kids are bored they tend to get into drugs and alcohol
 - We need the Borough's help to provide activities so drugs are not the only choice. It will cost money, but it's worth it.



Resources for Planning & Public Participation

■ Process debrief

- ❑ What skills were used in the micro-lab and concentric circle activities?
- ❑ How are these skills used in planning and public participation processes?
- ❑ Are there any ideas or processes that you heard about today that you are interested in using?

References

- Heather Coulehan
 - hcoulehan@akeela.org
- Jon Isaacs
 - jon_isaacs@urscorp.com
- Joan Kluwe
 - joan_kluwe@urscorp.com
- North Slope Borough Website
 - www.north-slope.org